

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

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81 AUG 1983

Rear Admiral N. C. Venzke, USN  
Chief, Office of Operations  
US Coast Guard  
Washington, D.C. 20593

Dear Admiral Venzke:

I am enclosing a copy of the National HUMINT Collection Plan on International Narcotics for your personal review. The Plan is based on the conclusions and recommendations of the narcotics intelligence community and was developed under the general auspices of the National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics. Its essential purpose is to provide broad intelligence collection guidance for the Intelligence Community consistent with my duties and responsibilities to the President and the National Security Council as detailed in Executive Order 12333.

The Plan also provides advisory tasking of US Government organizations which are not part of the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP). As you know, the Coast Guard has taken a strong interest in the Plan's development as have several other non-NFIP agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration, Customs, AID, USIA, and the State INM Bureau.

As the President's primary adviser on national foreign intelligence, I am particularly concerned that the collection of information on international narcotics activities receives the highest priority attention. In this regard, the coordination and participation of NFIP and non-NFIP elements in both the country-team narcotics collection effort of individual Missions and at the Washington level is of singular importance.

Events of the last year have emphatically underscored the US Coast Guard's significant role in the war against narcotics and, as you know, the Intelligence Community has exerted every effort to be responsive in support of the Coast Guard mission. I am aware that the Coast Guard will be establishing its own intelligence headquarters sometime in the fall and am certain that the relationship between the Community and the Coast Guard will only prosper as a result.

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As the National Narcotics Boarder Interdiction System (NNBIS) is gradually established, with strong US Coast Guard representation, I am sure that the service will develop its own intelligence sources and information which will be of considerable significance for the entire Community. I recognize that resources and personnel constraints will affect the development of the Coast Guard's intelligence program but, as your efforts move along, I sincerely hope you will be looking to ways both in which we can help and in which the entire Intelligence Community can share on a regular basis the foreign intelligence derived from the Coast Guard's efforts.

I have sent copies of the HUMINT Plan under separate cover to other non-NFIP agencies involved in the foreign narcotics collection effort. I have asked them to provide a written description of their ability to respond to the collection objectives for which they have accepted responsibility and am asking you to do the same.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that it is of the utmost importance to be able to assure responsible members of the Executive and Legislative Branches that the priority the President attaches to the narcotics issue has been communicated directly to both intelligence and non-intelligence elements of the US Government. The attached HUMINT collection study represents a concerted effort by the Intelligence Community to meet this objective. It will require, however, your strong support and active participation for its effective implementation. In this regard, I know I can count on your personal lead.

Sincerely,

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John N. McMahon

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Enclosure:  
As stated

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